



PEACE CORPS *Office of Third Goal and Returned Volunteer Services*

Ten Tips for Planning a Peace Corps' Story Event

1. **Set goals:** Why are you doing this event? Choose the goal(s) of the event. What is the focus? Third Goal fun/learning? Recruitment? An event for your RPCV group to connect? Who is your audience?
2. **Reach out:** [Contact your local Peace Corps recruiting office](#)/local recruiter. They may be interested in inviting prospective Volunteers to your event!
3. **What When Where:** Create a name for the event that matches your goals: Peace Corps Story Time, Peace Corps Story Slam, Story hour with Peace Corps. Find a time and venue that fits the goal(s).
4. **Get your Third Goal kit:** [Register](#) your event to receive a fun kit of Peace Corps promotional items to give out at the event.
5. **Recruit storytellers:** Reach out to other RPCVs and invite them to tell their stories. This is the time to provide details on theme, time limit, commitment, parameters for practice (one run through, etc.) and the outline of the event schedule (how many storytellers? Introductions? Competition?).
6. **Select stories:** If possible, select stories that balance each other in the areas of geography, diversity of the volunteer (age, sector, sex, background), tone of the story (happy, funny, serious, poignant, etc.), start to think about story order.
7. **Polish:** After selecting the storytellers reach out to the [Peace Corps Office of Third Goal and Returned Volunteer Services](#) for assistance with practice runs and feedback based on past experiences.
8. **Expand your reach:** Promote your event as much as possible through local and social media.
9. **Ready, set, go:** On the day of the event, make sure the audio-visual equipment is functioning and that you have your line-up (send to storytellers in advance if possible) and notes for introductions. Enjoy yourself and those great Peace Corps stories. You are bringing the world home in a dynamic way! Be sure to take pictures and/or videos to capture those priceless moments.
10. **Follow up:** Send thank-yous to all storytellers, venue, etc.

Other tips:

- **Suggested themes:** holiday moments, cultural gaffes, my inspiration, I got more than I gave, it's the little moments, cultural arrival, my second family.
- **Keeping time:** Be sure to have bell or a sign for the 60 and 30-second warnings!
- **Choose your order wisely:** The order of your storytellers is important! You want strong, confident storytellers to kick off and to close the show. Be sensitive to your audience's attention span: 6-8 storytellers with 7 minutes each are good parameters.
- **Be a good Emcee:** The job of the Emcee is to keep things moving along, fun, and make each storyteller feel special and appreciated. Keep that energy up!